

of the typographical execution, as well as its ample beauty, cannot fail to make this a favorite edition with amateurs.

THE WHEAT PLANT. By JOHN H. KILPATRICK. 12mo. pp. 70. A. C. Moore & Co.

The author of this instructive treatise has applied the labor of many years to a thorough investigation of the important plant to which it is devoted. It gives the history and development of wheat, the best modes of culture, and a description and classification of its principal varieties. A minute and accurate knowledge of the subject is exhibited on every page, and its fullness of detail, clearness of illustration, and variety of information make it at once level to the rank of a standard authority.

THE MANUFACTURE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC OR HYDRO-CARBON OILS. By THOMAS ANTISELL, M. D. 8vo. pp. 141. O. Appleton & Co.

In this accessible monograph, a detailed account is given of the art of distilling oil from bituminous substances. The manufacture is limited, according to the author, for the most part, to the districts where coal can be mined with economy, and hence, at present, its principal centers are in the States of Kentucky, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois.

THE SCIENCE OF EDUCATION, AND ART OF TEACHING. By JOHN OWEN, A. M. 12mo. pp. 476. Cincinnati: Moore, Williams, Keys & Co. New York: 12mo. & 12mo.

The fundamental principles of education are profoundly treated in this able volume. At the same time, it abounds in suggestions, adapted to practical use, that are well worthy the consideration of teachers.

NATIONAL READER. By RICHARD G. PARKER and J. MARSH WATSON. 12mo. Part I. A. S. Barnes & Co.

The series of "National Readers," which has been so favorably received by teachers in the United States, is here issued in a neat and uniform edition. Confronted with it is a "National Primer," and a "National Speller," all of which demand the attention of educators, as carefully compiled manuals.

THE ODYSSEY OF HOMER. With Notes. By JOHN J. OWEN, D. D. Sixteenth edition. 12mo. pp. 565. Leavitt & Allen.

Since the first publication of Prof. Owen's edition of the Odyssey, its merits have received ample testimony of the favor of the public. In the present edition, the text has been changed to the Porsonian type, and the Latin arguments to each book have been omitted.

BROOK FARM: THE AMUSEMENTS AND MEMOIRS OF AN ENGLISH COUNTRY LIFE. 12mo. pp. 296. Robert Carter & Brothers.

The experience of a party of English residents on a rural homestead near the Hudson River, is related in this pleasantly written volume. It has a fragrant odor of country life, and its attractive sketches are evidently drawn from nature.

ESSAYS ON PEAT, MUCK, AND COMMERCIAL MANURES. By SAMUEL W. JOHNSON. 8vo. pp. 17. Hartford: Brown & Green.

The subject of commercial fertilizers in general is treated in this volume. It is written in a plain and popular style, and contains a large amount of practical information of no small importance to the agricultural interest of this country.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Odyssey of Homer, with Notes. By John J. Owen, D. D. Sixteenth edition. 12mo. pp. 565. Leavitt & Allen.

Peas, by James Clarence Marston, with Biographical and Critical Notes. By John Milnes. 12mo. pp. 490. P. H. Harvey.

Leaves from an Author's Note-Book. By George Vandenhoeck. 12mo. pp. 246. O. Appleton & Co.

Gleanings from the Harvest-Fields of Literature, Science, and Art. Collected by C. C. Bonham. A. M. 12mo. pp. 224. T. Newton Kneass.

Life of Julius Caesar. By Henry G. Liddell, D. D. 12mo. pp. 247. Sheldon & Co.

Life of Napoleon Bonaparte. By T. Adolphus Trollope. 12mo. pp. 247. The same.

The Palace of the Great King. By the Rev. Hollis Rieu. 12mo. pp. 246. O. Appleton & Co.

Sword and Gown. By the author of "Guy Rivington." 12mo. pp. 361. Ticknor & Fields.

Sermons, preached and collected by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. Sixth Series. 12mo. pp. 450. Sheldon & Co.

Historical Vindication: A Discourse on the Providence and Uses of the Christian Church. By Samuel E. Collins. 12mo. pp. 224. G. D. Loring.

Edith. The Backwoods Girl. By Mrs. L. C. Tutill. 12mo. pp. 247. Sheldon & Co.

The Boy's Own Toy-Maker. By E. Lundie. 12mo. pp. 133. D. Appleton & Co.

The Law of Private Wrongs. By Francis Hilliard. 2 vols. 8vo. Little, Brown, & Co.

Orations and Sermons. By Edward Everett. 12mo. pp. 411. 8vo. pp. 347. Little, Brown, & Co. Sold by H. B. H. & Co.

An Inquiry into the Formation of Washington's Farewell Address. 8vo. pp. 250. Perry & McMillan.

The Lighted Christian. Edited by the Rev. James White. 12mo. pp. 338. Perry & McMillan.

Lazarus. The Trials of a Scoundrel. By T. S. Arthur. 12mo. pp. 223. T. B. Peterson & Co.

LIBRARIES AND OLD BOOKS IN GERMANY.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

VIENNA, September 16, 1889.

When in Breslau, some time since, I took notes for a letter, intended more especially for my numerous friends among the disciples of Gutenberg, Faust, and Franklin—the "Typo." The thing was after this manner:

One of the most pleasant and valuable acquaintances which I made in the Silesian Capital was with Prof. Stenzler of the University, who, beside teaching his half-dozen students Sanscrit, has charge, in part, of the great library, not only of the department of Oriental languages, but of a division which by himself has made, and which particularly interested me.

I have a special love for old books, as such—that is, for fine specimens of old typography, even though I can make nothing of their contents. It is quite a passion with me; so much so, that having last season "received my proportion, like the prodigious son" (as Launce tells his dog), I spent it in the "riotous" purchase of old books, until my own private sub-treasury was in as bad a condition as those of Cobb in a time of profound peace; and I was the victim of a vacuum as abhorrent to me as to nature. R. J. Walker, and Cobb—a vacuum which, by their showing, cannot be, yet is. What a superb Faustian power these Deutscher Treasurers have of inventing reasons and excuses for their annual utter overthrow by facts of all their theories! This little kick at Cobb by way of parenthesis.

While walking one day with Prof. Stenzler through the long ranges of apartments of the old monastery, or cloister, which is now the library building of Breslau University, he remarked, in one of the rooms, that he had collected there such works from all parts of the collection as threw light upon the early history of printing. A slight examination of the books induced me afterwards to make a long visit thither and to draw a few memoranda.

Of the great German Libraries, that at Breslau is considered the fifth in rank—Berlin, Vienna, Munich, Goettingen, Breslau. The number of volumes is not exactly ascertained, but it exceeds 200,000. It is very rich in old Ecclesiastical works, both manuscript and print; and this because upon the suppression of a vast number of Silesian convents, which under the old Austrian rule allowed the fat of the land, all works found in their libraries, which were not already in that of the University, were added to the latter. In this way it is that three large rooms are filled with manuscripts, both parchment and paper—many of them long and narrow, and of a few number of books belonging to the first sixteenth century of Typography. A. D. 1440-1500.

There is a want of literary value for any purpose whatever—unless one desires to know how many souls can dance upon the point of a needle, which is said to be the topic of one of Aquinas's lucubrations—most of the old monkish writings, led Prof. S. to look over the library to see whether they might not have a typographical value—so to speak. Taking the year 1500 as a limit, he found over 2,000 volumes scattered in the various rooms, and extending in date back certainly to the year 1400. The number proved so unexpectedly large, it was determined to go over his idea, and place these books by themselves.

The number now brought together and arranged is 2,255, and a few volumes yet remain whose proper places in the collection have not yet been determined. It is to be understood that of this large number, although there are many duplicates—added, in some cases, quite a large number of

copies of the same work—there is no duplicate of the same edition.

The system adopted by Prof. Stenzler in arranging these works seems to me very perfect, and one worth following—when we get the books to arrange.

The few splendid works printed on parchment are placed together at the beginning. Those upon paper are divided into two series.

1. Those where the place of printing is known. In this division the books are arranged according to places—those of each city arranged together. The works from each city are then arranged according to the printers, as in Panzer's great work (Annalen Typographorum, 11 vols., 4to.)—differing from Panzer in this, that the works of each printer are placed together. Then the cities are arranged according to the chronology of printing, taking Falkenstein's work as authority (Geschichte der Buchdruckerkunst, 4to., Leipzig, 1840).

The second series or division consists of works of which the place of printing is undetermined. And these again naturally fall into two subdivisions: 1st, those where the date is found in the book, and these stand chronologically; 2d, where both place and date are wanting, and these are arranged alphabetically as in Panzer.

I find that I omitted to note how many cities are represented in this collection, although the number of books from the principal ones is jotted down.

After the parchment—

1. Mainz, the cradle of printing. From Gutenberg, 1 vol., "Catholicon," 1469. Faust, 1 vol., "Augustine's Art of Printing" (Latin). Schoeffer, 22 vols. Other printers, 6 vols.—50.

2. Rome. From the office of Schönsinger & Pannartz, 4 vols. Nine other printers, 17 vols.—21.

Among these is the first printed edition of "Cicero's Epistles." As there were no Greek type then, spaces are left in the text in which Cicero's Greek quotations are inserted with a pen—now and then one omitted.

3. Cologne, 106 works, of which 22 are from the press of Zell, the most noted of the Cologne printers.

4. Augsburg, 77 works; 14 of which are from the office of Guttenberg before completing his work, and his list of 16,259 is very imperfect.

Prof. Stenzler showed me a list made up in this regard utterly astonishing me; a list of 329 editions of books printed before 1501, not in Mainz's works, and 324 which correct his descriptions! If other great libraries can furnish anything like this, as material to perfect Hain's catalogue, those first 60 years of printing must have given the world at the least 20,000 editions of books! No wonder that bigotry, superstition, and tyranny so soon found it necessary to establish an iron bondage over the press!

In the comprehensive History of Printing, by Prof. Hain, of Bonn (1857, 1840), no mention is made of Breslau. Yet I saw there four works from a Breslau press, which was very early established in one of the monasteries of that city. One of these, containing place and date, is a "Statuta Synodalia," printed in 1475. Another is without place and date, but the type has peculiarities which prove it absolutely to be from the same press. It is a "Pogna Factor." To such factious stories, if the security of these old Latin books and date were omitted, it gives a pleasant idea of the severe piety and asceticism of the holy men of God who printed it.

One of the most elegant specimens of typography I ever saw, leads the list of the Breslau works, printed on parchment. It is a large folio, on parchment, from the press of Peter Schoeffer of Mentz, 1472. Its contents are cases in Ecclesiastical Law. Each is headed by an exquisitely painted miniature picture, or illumination, giving a scene from the case in question. One of these gives us insight into two adjoining apartments. In one, a poor, miserable, forlorn shadow of a man sitting slumped, with a physician by him; in the other, a buxom, handsome woman, much younger, whom a stout, jolly-looking young fellow is kissing. I did not read the case; but as it was one of Church law, it is easy enough to understand what must have been the case. Another represents a bishop, with finely-developed features, the altar and the altar. The case was that of a priest whom his bishop had deprived of his office and degraded. By and by the bishop died, and it came out that he had turned Protestant before the act of degrading. Query: Had he, as a heretic, power to degrade one of the faithful? I had not time and patience (knowledge of Latin enough) to study out the twenty-two and a half folio pages of discussion to find out the result.

Another collection, which Prof. Stenzler has separated from the great mass of books, is ten long shelves full of works from the famous press of Aldus at Venice, beginning with the first which was printed there, *Herodotus a Leander*, in Greek and Latin, with queer old wood cuts.

The collection of Bibles, too, is fine and large. How happens it that people seem to have the idea that Luther made the first German translation of the Bible? Of the different editions of German Bibles printed before Luther's Old Testament (1534), there are here the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th before the year 1500, one of 1507, and another of 1518. But what interested me most (speaking of Bibles) was an original copy of the 95 theses, which the Reformer on that night of October 31, 1517, nailed to the door of the Castle of Wittenberg. I had always supposed church law were in manuscript. Not so. It is an old and still existing custom for the student in various departments of learning in the German Universities, when a candidate for his degree, to prepare a thesis upon some topic belonging to his special branch of study, and defend it in a public discussion, in the Latin language, in the public hall of the University, against all who may desire to take part. I have myself been present at such discussions, where, after the regular disputants had spoken, others, even the Professors, took part.

I do not know how the students in John Smith's University, on Salt Lake, were doing, when taking Latin exercises. Some day before the time for the debate, the student nails a printed copy of his thesis upon the blackboard in the entrance hall of the University for all to see. So Luther, though no longer a student, took the usual scholastic method of making his opinions known, and of bringing them to discussion; he printed his theses, and nailed them to the door of a church, for the topic now to be discussed were of a gravity and importance far transcending the powers and scope of candidates for degrees. The disputants here were to be on the one side, Martin Luther, Augustinian monk; on the other, the Catholic Church, in the high of its pride and power, could furnish of learning and eloquence. And here I had a copy of that small, dark, kindly old man's thesis, a little quarto, some six or eight inches square, with a title page, dated MDXVII, and six pages of close, fine print.

"Now let us pass to the improvement," as our old person used to say, after giving us the whole history of Sennacherib, which rhymes, you know, to "crack a rib."

Last Autumn and Winter I had a commission from an American Library, which caused me to

collect the catalogues of antiquarian booksellers from all parts of Germany, and I was struck with the great number of early specimens of printing continually turning up. The question occurred to me, Why should not the printers of some one of our large cities form an association, one of whose objects should be the formation of a Typographical Library? Should things "go loose" in Italy, there would be opportunity to pick up immense numbers of curious old books at exceedingly small prices. Fine old specimens of printing can even now be bought for from one to ten dollars of the money of the antiquarian, who purveys them in lots for of tentimes a less value than he would give for them. I heard of a list of books for sale, all printed before the year 1500, still retaining the rings and chains, with which they were in the "good old times" secured from theft. Many of them are ruined by wet and want of care; but many of them well worth having. For instance:

Two copies of a Latin Missal, printed by Schöffer, the inventor of good preservation.

Latin Bible, 1469, well preserved.

Apostolus Historie, 1474, well preserved.

Apostolus, 1481, well preserved, and so on.

Some thirty volumes in good order. The lot might have been bought for a small sum. Nobody would have thought of buying them in his own library, but every one would have them somewhere within reach of his curiosities. A "typographical library" would meet a great want.

Another point on which I have had much conversation with librarians here, is the founding of some system of exchange between American and European libraries. Prof. Stenzler, for instance, has great need of the publications of the American Oriental Society, but the expense of getting them is far beyond their value to a private person, and other demands upon the funds of the University Library are more important than this. And so with other Professors. The gentleman at the head of the Natural History spoke of the transactions of the various Societies in our country—at Boston, Philadelphia, and so forth—as of great value, could they only be obtained at any reasonable expense; and the Professor of Political Economy and "State Science" is just as desirous of getting the more important public documents of our National and State Legislatures. It is precisely so here in Vienna. The Sanscrit Professor here sympathizes with him; Breslau, when I was there, they had just completed a catalogue of duplicates, amounting to some thousands of numbers, which were to be sold soon after at auction, and for which they would receive hardly more than their value for waste paper. There are instances of lots of old books having been sold to men, who purchased them for the ornaments and clasps, to be torn off and sold for old brass.

Now what reason is there why this large lot of books at Breslau should not have been exchanged directly with American Libraries, each side profiting some hundreds of dollars by the operation? I believe an association of libraries might find it worth while to have an industrial, faithful agent settled, say in Bremen, to buy and sell books, to facilitate exchange between Germany and America—both of books and of specimens of natural history. In the Breslau Cabinet there is a better collection of Brazilian than of New-England birds; but where in New-England will you find Silesian birds? How easy to make an exchange! I only throw out the hint. The question is one which will argue itself.

THE USE OF PLASTER IN MICHIGAN.—We have a letter from G. Smith, of Ionia Co., Mich., giving a detail of the effect of plaster upon some of the sandy lands in that section, which cannot be profitably cultivated except by the use of plaster and clover.

But," he says, "if it is kept to clover a suitable portion of the land, and plaster to the amount of even 50 lbs. per acre sown, it will increase in productivity. The enterprising, intelligent farmer asks for no better land than the openings and plains of Michigan; but the lazy, old-fashioned farmer soon starves out. This fact being generally known, the soil is cultivated with a mixture of clover and plaster, at the same price per pound, to the owner of sandy land, than the best concentrated manure, for there is to one of them the effects of which would be so great at the rate of 100 lbs. per acre. An intelligent farmer cannot afford to keep their farm without plaster, and the farmer who has not it cannot afford to draw barnyard manure if forced there without cost. This may be put down as an extreme opinion, but I have sometimes thought that the idea was that plaster would increase the productivity of the soil to as great an extent as the manure at much less expense. I have never seen as great an increase of hay from a top dressing of manure, as from a dressing of 100 lbs. of plaster per acre.

There are various opinions as to the best time for sowing plaster; but, for my part, I think it can hardly be sown at a wrong time; though I have seen the best results when it has been sown in May. Most farmers are anxious to get fresh-ground plaster, or at least that which has never been wet; but for my use, the oldest plaster, that will not cake, is the best. The best method of training a barnyard is to use plaster. Many several barrels of plaster which I once purchased at Ionia, was one that had not only been wet, but had lain in the water. I thought on first opening it that it would not pay for the trouble of sowing; but on further thought I concluded to try it. I sowed it, and it did me good. It did not seem to increase the growth of the wheat much, though it gave it a dark color and caused it to ripen later. But when the wheat was removed, the effect on the clover became apparent, for it grew at a wonderful rate, soon covering up and carrying the stubble with it. It finally falling down and carrying the stubble with it.

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